

SIDUS SIDARUM—IV.
A NEW RECORD OF *SIDA* IN NORTH AMERICA,
S. SANTAREMENSIS (MALVACEAE).

PAUL A. FRYXELL

U.S. Dept. Agric. & Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843, U.S.A.

ANTONIO KRAPOVICKAS

Universidad Nacional del Nordeste
Corrientes, Argentina

DAVID CREWZ

Bureau of Marine Research, Florida Dept. of Natural Resources
St. Petersburg, FL 33731, U.S.A.

Recent collections of *Sida* in and around Tampa, Florida (cited below) proved initially difficult to identify, when considered against the relatively few species of that genus known to occur in Florida. An initial suggestion of hybrid origin, supported by a very restricted distribution in proximity to putatively parental species (*S. acuta* Burm. f. and *S. cordifolia* L.), was not supported by the evident fertility of the plants in question nor is it supported by the taxonomic view that the two putative parents belong to different sections of the genus (Fryxell, 1985).

The problem was resolved when one of us (AK) recognized the plant in question to be *Sida santaremensis* Monteiro, described from Brazil and found also in Argentina and Bolivia. Comparison of the Florida plant with a range of specimens from South America (including a specimen from the type locality of Santarem in Pará Brazil) leaves no doubt as to the identification of the Florida material (cf. also Kearney, 1958). Since the original description of this species is not readily available, a redescription of the plant is included in this paper.

Presumably the plant is a recent introduction to Florida. Whether the initial propagules arrived by human-mediated transport, by birds, or by some other means is not known. However, the recognition of this introduction soon after its arrival (apparently) provides an opportunity to observe its subsequent spread and establishment in the the flora of the region—or its failure to spread and establish—and to observe its comparative competitiveness with other species of *Sida* already occurring in the area.

SIDA SANTAREMENSIS Monteiro, Monogr. Malvac. Bras. Fasc. I. *Sida*, 44. 1936.

Well-branched subshrub up to 1 m tall, the stems sparsely and minutely stellate-pubescent. Leaf blades broadly elliptic to subrhomboid, at base truncate to rounded, dentate almost to the base (the teeth finer proximally than distally), acute, up to 5.5 cm long, 3.5 cm wide, smaller and narrower upward, minutely and evenly stellate-pubescent, densely so beneath, slightly discolored; petioles 3–10 mm long, densely stellate-pubescent distally; stipules linear, 7 mm long, 1-nerved. Pedicels usually solitary in the leaf axils, slender, up to 2 cm long; calyx 6–7 mm long, minutely and evenly stellate-pubescent, 10-ribbed at the base, the lobes triangular-apiculate; petals ca 1 cm long, cream-colored with reddish-brown spot at base; androecium pallid, the anthers yellowish. Fruits oblate-conical, more or less enclosed by calyx lobes; mericarps ca 11, short -apiculate (and with a few antrorse hairs) apically, the dorsal wall somewhat sunken, the lateral walls smooth to obscurely reticulate.

FLORIDA: Hillsborough Co.: sandy disturbed area near north restroom at Lettuce Lake Park, north of Tampa, 11 Oct 1981 [in flower], *Crewz & Lindsay* 2271 (STPE, USF, pf), 24 Nov 1981 [in fruit], *Crewz & Heath* 2350 (pf).

An additional population has been observed in Tampa in a sandy road margin adjacent to mesic woods at the dead end of Ojus Dr. ca 100 m south of East 98th Avenue.

REFERENCES

- FRYXELL, P. A. 1985. *Sidus sidarum*—V. The North American and Central American species of *Sida*. *Sida* [in press].
 KEARNEY, T. H. 1958. A tentative key to the South American species of *Sida*. *Leaflet W. Bot.* 8:249–270.